



## Climate change, human security and violent conflict

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**Author(s):** Barnett J, Adger WN  
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### Abstract:

Climate change is increasingly been called a 'security' problem, and there has been speculation that climate change may increase the risk of violent conflict. This paper integrates three disparate but wellfounded bodies of research e on the vulnerability of local places and social groups to climate change, on livelihoods and violent conflict, and the role of the state in development and peacemaking, to offer new insights into the relationships between climate change, human security, and violent conflict. It explains that climate change increasingly undermines human security in the present day, and will increasingly do so in the future, by reducing access to, and the quality of, natural resources that are important to sustain livelihoods. Climate change is also likely to undermine the capacity of states to provide the opportunities and services that help people to sustain their livelihoods. We argue that in certain circumstances these direct and indirect impacts of climate change on human security may in turn increase the risk of violent conflict. The paper then outlines the broad contours of a research programme to guide empirical investigations into the risks climate change poses to human security and peace.

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### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

**Temperature:** Fluctuations

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified


#### Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Outcome Unspecified

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Resilience:** 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified